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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gruber *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/076,115

Filed: May 12, 1998

For: **Methods for Production and
Purification of Nucleic Acid
Molecules**

Confirmation No.: 4470

Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Tung, J.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4350001/RWE/B-C

Preliminary Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

Filed concurrently herewith in the above-captioned application is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Prior to examination of the RCE on the merits, please amend the application as directed herein. In advance of prosecution, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. This Preliminary Amendment is provided in the format approved in the pre-OG Notice dated January 31, 2003, entitled, "Amendments In A Revised Format Now Permitted," and in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.